Decline in investment in the Agriculture Sector

*33. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be Pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that invest ment in the agriculture sector has declined considerably over the years resulting in a lower rate of capital formation;

(b) whether the above views have recently been expressed by eminent agricultural economists; and

(c) if so, what were the main rea sons for the decline in farm invest ment and what steps are being taken to improve the same?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decline capital formation in the agriculture sector is attributed to decrease Jn public sector investment, insufficient increase in agricultural incomes and lesser production levels in the years of unfavourable weather conditions as in 1982-83.. 1986-87 and 1987-88.

The strategy to check the declining trend of capital formation in agriculture sector would include in creasing the proportion of planned investment allocated to rural sector including for development of infrastructure for agriculture, more efficient use of resources to raise productivity and ensuring incentive prices to farmers to induce them to go for higher investment in agriculture.

Development of Agriculture Sector in Punjab

34. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have finalised the Perspective Plan for 1990-2000 for he multifarious development of the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the investment likely to be made available therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to approach the World Bank for assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other assistance Government propose to give to Punjab in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The Punjab Government are in the processes of formulating a perspective plan for integrated development of agriculture sector.

(b) The formulation o'f the Plan is at a preliminary stage and hence no firm figures of investment are yet available.

(c) and (d) A decision in this matter can be taken only after the project is finalised.

National Water-shed Development Programme for rainfed Agriculture

*35. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether a new scheme of National Water-shed development programme for rainfed agriculture has been launched;

(b) if so, what is the criterion adopted for selection thereof;

(c) whether any specific provision has been made in the selection criterion for the benefit of SC/ST who constitute majority of the small and marginal farmers and landless labour. if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the *two* taluks of Perambur and Ariyalur in Tiruchirapalli District of Tamil Nadu